

The Times-Dispatch

Published Daily and Weekly at No. 4 North Tenth Street, Richmond, Va. Entered January 27, 1903, at Richmond, Va., as Second-Class Matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

The DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH is sold at 2 cents a copy.

The SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH is sold at 5 cents a copy.

DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH by mail—50 cents a month, \$5.00 a year, \$2.50 for six months, \$1.50 for three months.

SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH by mail, \$2.00 a year.

The DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH, including Sunday, by Carrier, 15 cents per week.

The SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH, by Carrier, 5 cents per week.

The WEEKLY TIMES-DISPATCH, \$1.00 year.

All Unassigned Communications will be rejected.

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Up-town Office at T. A. MILLER'S, No. 519 East Broad Street.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1903.

MR. DAVIS ON PROHIBITION.

That was a most interesting letter that we printed in yesterday's paper from President Jefferson Davis on the subject of prohibition. Mr. Davis discussed the question from a Democratic point of view, and laid down some broad principles of government, which should be respected and applied in all Democratic forms of government. But we are not disposed to go into that branch of the subject. We are more interested just now, as our readers are, in the practical question.

Mr. Davis said that the abuse and not the use of stimulants was the evil to be remedied. This has become a trite saying, but it is after all the sum and substance of the discussion, the res gestae, as the lawyers say, of the case. There is no harm per se in the moderate use of alcoholic liquors, and if men had always used them moderately, and if all men used them moderately, and never immoderately, to-day there would be no liquor problem to solve. It is intemperance that makes the liquor evil. But where one man abuses liquor and makes a hog of himself and makes a nuisance of himself and makes a criminal of himself through its use, thousands drink it in moderation, to their comfort and without harm either to themselves or to others.

That is why it is practically impossible to enforce prohibition, and it is just here that our prohibition friends fall into blunders. They say that as we have laws against theft, against gambling, against lotteries, as these things are denominated crimes, so the selling of liquor ought to be denominated a crime and prohibited. But the selling of liquor is not per se a crime, and we cannot make it so by a statutory law. We call it a crime, but we cannot make it a crime any more than we can make dancing a crime, or card playing a crime, because men make them wrong by abuses.

There are in the city of Richmond merchants who sell alcoholic liquors by the measure, and they are known to be moral, upright citizens. To say that they are criminals or that they are engaged in a criminal practice in selling liquors were absurd and slanderous.

There are, it is true, men who conduct low grogeries, which are dens of vice, if not of crime, and these liquor sellers defy the law and evade it when they can. But it cannot be argued from this that the liquor traffic is in itself criminal.

Theft is criminal in itself, and so is murder, and so is gambling, and so are immoral practices which are prohibited by law. Theft cannot be carried on in such a moderate way as to make it innocent. But this is not true of liquor drinking or dancing or card playing or anything of that character which in itself is innocent, and which becomes wrong only by excess or abuse. We cannot prohibit dancing because some people abuse the amusement and make it wrong; we cannot prohibit card playing because some people use cards for gambling purposes, nor can we make liquor-drinking and liquor-selling a crime because some men get drunk and because other men sell liquor offensively.

Therefore, it all comes around, as we have been endeavoring in these discussions to show, to the question of regulation.

PENSIONS FOR TEACHERS.

And now come the public school teachers of the State asking the Legislature to inaugurate a pension system for them, and we are informed that a bill to that end has actually been drawn to be presented soon. We have the highest possible regard for this very worthy and splendid class of our people, but the idea of expecting the State to pension them when they can no longer follow their profession seems to us to be a rather unreasonable proposition, unless the State is going to pension people of all other callings who have served her faithfully and well. But where is the money for all this sort of thing to come from? Where will it stop? Who will be the next to ask the State to support them?—Salem Times-Register.

Our astute contemporary, which usually sees to the bottom of every subject it discusses, does not seem to realize that the pension system for public school teachers is already in vogue in this State. We have many pensioners on the list, and the contention of this paper is that the State cannot afford to keep them there.

There are worn-out teachers in the schools to-day, and they are retained because the members of the school boards have not the heart to turn them adrift.

The bill in question provides that all teachers who have served in the public schools of Virginia for twenty-five years, and who have a faultless record, shall be entitled to register their names on the "Teachers' Retired List," and then upon proof that any such teacher is unable to take care of himself or herself, as the case may be, the State shall give to such person a pension of two hundred dollars a year. In this way the worn-out teachers would be taken out of active service and retired on small pay, and young and vigorous teachers put in their places.

A general proposition we do not be-

lieve in the pension system. We do not believe in any system that tends to sap the manhood or womanhood of Virginia. We do not believe in any system that tends to impair manly and womanly independence. But in this case there is to be no pension until the teacher has worn out in the service of the State, and there can be no demoralization in such a plan. But above all our interest is in the efficiency of the public school system, and this cannot but be impaired when teachers who have lost their physical and mental vigor are retained. We repeat that it is very much cheaper for the State to pension such teachers outside than inside the activities of school work. It is no time to press this subject, and we think it unfortunate that it has been brought to the attention of the General Assembly in such a crisis, for that body must be most economical in its appropriations, but the claim of the teachers is quite as reasonable as some other claims that have been presented, and sooner or later some provision for the worn-out teachers must be made. They must be retired, if we expect the public school system to progress in all directions.

A STRIKING CONTEST.

On Tuesday last the committee on the budget of the German Reichstag, by the overwhelming majority of 23 to 2, voted to approve an expenditure of \$750,000 towards the expense of Germany's exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition. On the following day the House of Delegates of Virginia refused to vote \$50,000 as the first installment of \$200,000 towards an exhibition on Virginia's own soil to commemorate the greatest event in American history. Germany's financial condition is proportionately, perhaps, not as good as that of Virginia. Germans, too, are cautious, indeed, phlegmatic people. They are not carried away by sentiment, but they understand the value of the great opportunity offered by an industrial exposition to promote commercial and industrial interests, and to secure to themselves the comforts and benefits which come from wealth.

Is it possible that Virginians are so far behind Germans that they do not appreciate such an opportunity, even when it is offered at their own doors? Shall it be thought that our representatives are unable to grasp such a great situation? The die is not irrevocably cast, and though the appropriation asked for will be a greater burden on the State than under ordinary circumstances should be assumed, yet the denial of it will cause an immeasurable and irreparable loss, beside which the amount of the appropriation is insignificant.

A WOMAN'S VIEW.

Following is an extract from a letter written by a lady of Kentucky to a friend in Richmond concerning the proposal to place a bust of General Lee in Statuary Hall. The writer is a lady of social prominence and a member of a family which has been distinguished for several generations in Southern political history. Herself an ardent Confederate, she took refuge in Richmond during the war, sharing and suffering in our reverses, and she still has the deepest love for the Confederate cause. The letter was not intended for publication, but we have taken the liberty of using it because it is a woman's view and because it expresses the view of many, if not most, of the women of the Confederacy. She says: "Why in the world did you all in Virginia let the Legislature offer a statue of General Lee for that hall in Washington? It is to me a sacrilege to subject his honored name and memory to the profane comment and criticism which the action has provoked. Besides, he is ours, our glorious son, and we should keep him for ourselves always, even if they were clamoring to have him. Of course, next to Washington, he is the greatest son. The whole world acknowledges that, and his statue might be offered to Westminster Abbey, but not to Statuary Hall in Washington. I am really grieved about it."

Some time ago Mr. W. W. Scott, State Librarian, recalled in these columns an incident of Roman history, which seems to have an appropriate bearing on this case. Cato and a friend were walking through the Forum, when the friend asked the distinguished Roman why it was that no statue had been erected to him. "I would rather," said Cato in reply, "that men should ask why no statue was erected to me."

THE BATTLE O'ER.

It is now three days, as well as we can recall, since any mention was made in the newspapers concerning the vibrations of the Rev. Dr. H. W. Battle between Petersburg, Virginia, and Greensboro, North Carolina, and we are encouraged to believe that the correspondents have finally located him.

For many weeks—or was it months—we watched this spirited contest between the cities named for possession of the person and voice and eloquence of the distinguished preacher. One morning the scareheads in The Times-Dispatch indicated that Greensboro had outbid the preacher away and the next morning it appeared that Petersburg had plumed him down. It was a most exasperating sort of contest, for when there are good things in Virginia we all like to keep them, and in this case it appeared not only that the dear man would be torn from Petersburg and from Virginia, but that he would be torn from himself, limb from limb, and would be a sort of drawn battle. The conflict gave us many conflicting emotions, and we are glad that it is done, even though we have lost the Battle.

Once there was an old woman on a railway train, and as it was her first experience she was much alarmed when the train ran on a trestle. She thought the train was flying across the chasm, and by and by when terra firma was reached on the other side, the old woman relaxed her grip, heaved a relief sigh, and said: "Thank the Lord, she's lit!"

SUBJECT TO PROTEST.

In the Baltimore papers of yesterday appears an official advertisement containing the list of applicants for liquor licenses in that city, together with the places where the applicants propose to do business.

The purpose of this formal public notice is to give people who wish to do so op-

portunity to enter their protests either against the person seeking the license or the place where he wishes to sell liquor. And now it only remains for the good people of Baltimore to exert themselves a little and show what bars, if any, have been the scenes of crime and disorder, and those licenses will be withheld. "The idea is a good one. Here in Richmond, too, we have need of some measure or movement that will call the attention of the court to disreputable saloons—places that give trouble to the police, that do manifest injury to the neighborhood, and that disregard the laws of the city and State. A proper man at a proper place is entitled by law to a license, but a law-breaker or a person who cannot or will not keep order upon and about his premises is entitled to none."

A TIME FOR ECONOMY.

The Peninsula Enterprise reproduces an article from The Times-Dispatch, in which we called attention to large appropriations bills now pending in the Legislature, and the editor's comment:

"The figures given are worthy of serious consideration on the part of the members of that body and large enough surely to make them heed the note of warning which has been sounded. If, however, they cannot realize what the figures mean, the fact that State bonds have recently declined from 90-12 to 93 cents ought to be enough to convince them that something is wrong, and nothing so likely to have caused the decline as the prospect of a large expenditure of the funds of the State. One thing cannot be lost sight of by them, that no step should be taken which would have the effect of impairing the credit of the State."

It is of the greatest consequence to the tax-payers of the State that economy be practiced by the General Assembly. There are many demands upon the treasury, and we are not going to say that any of the requests for appropriations are unworthy. But, first of all, the State must provide for necessary expenses, for the public school fund and for interest on the public debt. The extraordinary appropriations can only come in after these expenses have been provided for, and it would be reckless to make extraordinary appropriations amounting to three-quarters of a million dollars until the money to meet them is fairly in sight. It is now given out by Senator Wickham and Mr. Boaz that the General Assembly will probably be in session until August. That means more expense and a heap of it. We must be careful.

Raleigh, the capital city of North Carolina, is largely engaged in the agricultural business. It is the proud owner of a farm containing 133 acres. It is the city's dumping ground, and is being rapidly enriched. The land cost \$5,000. The crop last year was 400 barrels of corn, quantities of fodder and grass and 150 bushels of peas. There are in cultivation 65 acres. On the farm are the post houses and small-pox hospital, also stables for all the city's stock, 18 horses, and large barns. The value of the crop last year was \$3,000, and there is plenty of corn, fodder, etc., to feed all the city's horses until next September or October. The officer who is in charge of the farm, says it is a profitable and useful investment, and that the land is so improved that he believes it could now be sold for \$10,000.

There are two very remarkable divorce suits on the docket of the New Jersey courts. One of the suits has been brought by a wealthy Jersey farmer, who seeks divorce from his wife on the ground that she is a "new woman," and spends her time attending club meetings and reading trashy literature on the emancipation of the sex. Instead of performing the duties naturally expected of her, "All of this is bad enough, and the sympathy of hundreds of people will go out to this wretched man, but his case is not near so bad as that of the other Jersey man who is seeking divorce. He wants release on the ground that his wife, who had been a professional snake charmer, refused to give up her pet, and persisted in taking them to bed with her."

Canada has a Senator who is a hundred years old and who has been a law-maker of one sort or another for sixty-three years. This venerable and somewhat experienced statesman is named David Wark and he hails from Fredericton, N. B. We presume that his age is correctly stated, inasmuch as he has been in public life such an extraordinary length of time, and the matter must have been the subject of investigation, especially by his political opponents, who, we guess, would not have hesitated to accuse him of prostration, if any doubt existed. We take it, therefore, that here is a case of well established centenarianism.

The surveyors who are freshly marking the Mason and Dixon line under the direction of the chief of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, are making good progress with their work. The object of the present survey is to restore the old monuments, many of which have been destroyed or removed, and to erect additional monuments for the better definition of the line.

Ex-President Cleveland was sixty-six years old on Tuesday. He is in good health and strength and talks of a trip to the far West. His avocations and other reasons will, however, prevent his swinging around the circle with the velocity that may be expected of the President.

Parkersburg, West Virginia, has on hand a most remarkable railroad fight, which incidentally brings about the impeachment of the Mayor, who is also the attorney of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

There continue to be heard rumblings of a forthcoming strike in the soft coal regions. Did it never occur to the parties at interest that the best time to end a strike is before it begins?

That is a rather annoying block and chain the Senate attached to the Cuban treaty.

Carter Harrison had no trouble getting the Democratic nomination for a fourth term in the Chicago Mayor's office, and

he will have very little, if any, in getting elected by the people.

The wide waters in the Western rivers make it tough on the ferry boat men, who are not allowed to advance rates according to the increased width of the streams they have to cross.

The Northern baseball clubs are coming South to lumber up for the summer's work, and incidentally to earn a little pin money.

Three, banquets and a Boston breakfast are the things the people of the Hub are testing the digestion apparatus of General Miles with.

The Chesterfield weather prophet very much fears that this glorious weather in March means no peaches in July and August.

The Mississippi River has evidently gotten on its present jag to afford the monitor Arkansas plain sailing up to St. Louis.

The Senate is now about to quit and go home, but our Legislature is still with us and liable to be for quite a while yet.

The new member from Mecklenburg did not hesitate a minute about taking that oath to support the new Constitution.

Where will Mr. Bryan be when the President invades Nebraska this spring?

With a Comment or Two.

The Virginia Legislature has passed a pure election law. Does this mean that the politicians will no longer be in control?—Durham Herald.

It is believed to mean that the people are getting in the saddle.

If every man would be liberal enough to concede the right of opinion to others he arrogates to himself, much of the bitterness that political strife engenders would be swept away, and defeat in fair contests would lose its sting.—Wilson News.

If every man was real good there would be very little wickedness in the world.

The Louisiana Senators have succeeded in securing an important amendment to the Cuban reciprocity treaty, which, if it does not kill it altogether, will at least postpone its operation for another year. The amendment is to prohibit the disposal of another sugar crop under the protection of the Dingley tariff rates.—New Orleans Picayune.

Here is proof of the doctrine once advanced by a famous North Carolinian that all men are protectionists when they are protected, and free traders when the other fellow is protected.

Senator Gorman, in his role of leader, is evidently disposed to have "harmony." If he has to ram it down a few Democratic throats.—Atlanta Constitution.

That is just the kind of an artist the party needs about now.

Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

The Wytheville Dispatch, referring to the Jamestown Exposition appropriation bill, says: "But aside from the business point of view, is there nothing in State pride? Shall we desert an enterprise to which we have pledged our money and our credit? To turn our backs now upon the Exposition would be to declare to the world that Virginia has no pride in her glorious past."

The Alexandria Gazette sizes up the Utah business thus: "When Mr. Roberts was elected to Congress from Utah a great howl went up throughout the country that he was a Mormon and he was incontinent turned out of his seat by a Republican House. Mr. Roberts was a Democrat. When Mr. Smoot, a Mormon apostle, was elected a Senator from Utah there was heard a murmur of disapproval, but that murmur has lulled and he now occupies his seat as securely as any other member of the Senate. Mr. Smoot is a Republican and the votes of Utah and Idaho would be jeopardized were he molested. Politics, like circumstances, alters cases."

The Fredericksburg Free Land says: "This road question is paramount in Virginia, and the farmer whose property is injured because of its non-settlement, who is inconvenienced and annoyed in traveling from place to place, and who is cut off, as it were, in winter time, should arouse himself to the necessity of solving the question and awaken to the necessity of action in the premises."

The Newport News Press says: "The drug business in Amherst county is said to have suffered a material setback by the disclosures made in the annual report of the State Board of Health, that section is now merely a place where drugs, medicines, cigars, poker chips, candy, dry goods, stoves and notions are on sale."

The Augusta County Argus is noticing things, it says: "We have not noticed that President Roosevelt has nominated any negro youths to Annapolis or West Point. Is he willing to close those 'doors of hope' to the colored race?"

Personal and General.

On her way to an Easter stay at Seville, ex-Governor Isabella, of Seville, will stop at the home in Montgomery, W. Va., of her grandson, the King.

Israel Zangwill, when asked recently what special attraction he had in mind for the new playhouse, said: "All forms of locomotion except ballooning."

Bishop Hartzell, who recently returned from Africa, reached Cincinnati on Saturday and, preaching on "Africa As I Have Seen It," Sunday in St. Paul's Methodist Church.

New measurements confirm the report that Adams McKinley, in Alaska, is the highest peak in North America.

Printed in English and devoted to commerce, a new daily newspaper is about to be issued in St. Petersburg.

The United States and Great Britain together handle more letters and periodicals than all the rest of the world put together.

Mrs. Marysella, a white woman, celebrating her 100th birthday anniversary at her home in Montgomery, W. Va., on Saturday. She was born in South Carolina.

WOODWARD & SON LUMBER ROUGH AND DRESSED YELLOW PINE, WHITE PINE, HARDWOODS, SASH, BLINDS AND DOORS.

Best and most complete assortment in the South. Warehouse with 4,000,000 feet capacity. Yards covering seven acres. Write for prices.



THE MAN ABOUT TOWN
—BY—
Harry Tucker.

DAILY CALENDAR—MARCH 19TH.

1901—Got a chicken leg at Gordonville.

1903—Got it again.

Stanton is a pretty town, as fine as on the map, but we went the other day without a Shriner's cap.

The reason was that we were not a member of the Shriner's lodge, and we shouldn't be in line.

The Stenwall Band met us, you know, when we got off the train.

When we came back we made our mind to go up there.

The lawn was opened wide for us, as wide, as wide could be.

So we fell in behind the crowd, and had our little spree.

And when we picked up our berth and got on the train, we found it empty.

We discovered that the smoke from that cigar we had been imbibing in, had settled in our head.

We hate to have such things happen, for it leads to embarrassing situations sometimes.

When the smoke settles in a fellow's head, he can hardly be held responsible for what he does afterwards.

When we got on our bunk on our special coach, we didn't know that there was somebody in there, and when we hunted about and found we were in Tom McAdams' berth, instead of our own, we didn't think it was our fault.

We called William and Fred Jurgens over to help him put me in another state-room.

Jeter Jones should have rushed to the rescue like the crowd did at Gordonville.

We missed the train, and the ad-vice going up when they helped put that crate of eggs on board for George Hooper, instead of allowing Bob Mitchell to get George Tiller and E. A. Barber to help Jim Chitt to sell the chewing gum that Ollie Hawkins bought from George Stenwall.

We never were able to tell what became of the pie that was ordered at Hungary Station, except that we saw Louis McVeigh with a piece on the ear platform of the observation car, and Dr. Anderson eating a piece surreptitiously.

If it hadn't been for the beautiful song that John Rowe sang, as we passed the man standing near the truck at Bothwell, we do not know what might have become of Louis Stenwall.

The whole thing was passed up, however, when Billy Russell handed around some pink tea prepared and donated by J. C. Bowman.

We missed Tom Whitlot and Major Howard, and Joe Welsh might have told us his scheme for getting another patrol wagon, if he had been along.

Anyway? Is salamu aileikum! Or words to those effects.

Trend of Thought

In Dixie Land

The Wytheville Dispatch, referring to the Jamestown Exposition appropriation bill, says:

"But aside from the business point of view, is there nothing in State pride? Shall we desert an enterprise to which we have pledged our money and our credit? To turn our backs now upon the Exposition would be to declare to the world that Virginia has no pride in her glorious past."

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North Carolina Sentiment.

The Asheville Citizen says:

"It is pleasant to learn that fifty new rural free delivery routes began operation in North Carolina this month. They follow good roads and foster good schools, and the three together are the hope of the rural section."

The Greensboro Telegram, thinking of recent events in Raleigh and Tarboro, wallops as follows:

"Another shooting scrape for the thoughtful to philosophize over! What are we coming to anyway? Laws against pistol-toting won't do the work. It looks terribly like total depravity. If it is, the whole thing will die quietly accept the situation and pass to more pleasant thoughts."

The Raleigh Post says:

"The gentlemen who have undertaken to underwrite presidential delegations from this State and the South have established a pretty stiff premium for the service, so it is said. Leg-pulling in this respect has been in progress ever since March 10th, will close at 7 o'clock this morning, with high mass.

The sermon will be delivered by Bishop A. Van de Vyver. The musical program will be under the direction of Miss M. McSwaney.

The mass was sung last night by Mr. John Murphy, of St. Mary's choir.

Novena Closes.

The mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church last night was well attended, the services being conducted by Rev. Father Hannigan.

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The Durham Sun says:

"Governor Aycock again showed a level head in refusing to have any of the proposed convention to settle the race question."

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

The Van Nostrand and Mr. Elliot were in the great library, holding a council of war with Bobs, when a footman entered the room with a card.

"A gentleman to see the Earl of Grassmere, sir," he said, looking doubtfully at Mr. Van Nostrand. "He insisted upon it that he was here."

Bobs quietly took the card from the tray, to the astonishment of the servant, and said:

"Mr. James Redmond, of Parks, Parks & Redmond, solicitors, London. Shall he come up, Mr. Van Nostrand, or shall we go down?"

"Let him come up, Bobs. It may be part of this mystery. Girls, you better leave us for the present. Show the gentlemen up, John."

In a few moments the footman ushered in Mr. Redmond.

"Mr. Redmond?" asked Bobs, looking at the card that he held in his hand and then at the caller.

"I am Mr. Redmond, at your service. Is this the Earl of Grassmere, commonly known as Mr. Morgan?"

"I am that person. This is Mr. Van Nostrand and this is Mr. Elliot. Mr. Redmond, may I ask why you have come to see me?"

Both Mr. Van Nostrand and Mr. Elliot were surprised at the question in which Bobs received the guest.

"I represent the firm of Parks, Parks & Redmond, solicitors as my card shows you. We are the legal representatives of the late Earl of Grassmere, who was killed in a motor accident, was stolen from his home November 16, 1886. From that time to this we have never been able to find a trace of him, with the exception that at regular intervals we received letters from him, stating that the boy was alive and well, and would